



The MFC Energy Savings Performance Contract team members were among 70 INL employees recently recognized for exemplary achievements in 2008.

Lab director honors energy-efficiency work

by [John Howze](#), *INL Communications*

Seven Idaho National Laboratory employees have been honored for their work on an energy-efficiency project that will save INL more than \$1.7 million in annual energy and maintenance costs.

The employees received one of INL's most coveted awards – the Laboratory Director's Award – for their work on an Energy Savings Performance Contract that will bring \$33 million worth of energy-saving infrastructure improvements to the laboratory's Materials & Fuels Complex.

Chris Duncan, Ernest Fossum, Kerwin Hassing, Don Lewis, Chris Ischay, Robert Honsinger and Larry Duncan received their honors and a gold INL medallion in a recent ceremony. They were just seven of 70 employees honored with the Lab Director's Award this year.

Director's Awards are reserved for the very highest levels of achievement in forwarding the mission and success of INL. The recipients were recognized for exemplary achievements in a variety of areas including finance, science or engineering, and project or program execution.

"This project and this team typify some of the great performance and teamwork we value at INL," Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher said. "They demonstrated outstanding teamwork, persistence and technical knowledge. It serves notice that we are leaders in energy and water conservation, a very important aspect of how we operate our laboratory."

The MFC Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) project has taken more than two years to develop and has involved many INL employees. The honorees constitute the project's core development group, which provided significant contributions, often on a daily basis, throughout its long development. They and many others at INL who provided support and contributed in a variety of ways to this project's development are thanked for their hard work.

"This very important BEA achievement at INL was the first such contract signed in the Department of Energy complex," said Facilities & Site Services Director Dwayne Coburn. "INL faces very aggressive targets for reductions in energy, water and fuel use each year through 2015. Simultaneously we must increase our use of alternative fuels at the laboratory by 10 percent each year. We have more to do, both in projects and as individual laboratory employees, in order to keep pace with what is required. However, this ESPC is a substantial start down that road, and brought us immediate national recognition within DOE for its size, scope and completeness.

"Each employee is responsible to help INL eliminate the waste of energy, water and fuel and to use these resources more efficiently," Coburn said. "I know we are up to this challenge and I encourage everyone to acknowledge what this team has accomplished and congratulate them for it."

The work on this ESPC project will be funded by NORESKO, considered the nation's premier energy services company. NORESKO will be repaid over some 17 years by funds from documented and verified annual energy savings generated by the project for INL.

"Clearly the cost of energy is going to rise in the future," Coburn said. "It is of strategic importance that INL act now so that the future work of this laboratory will be performed in the most energy efficient way possible, freeing additional resources to support the continuing research and infrastructure needs of the lab."

After NORESKO is fully paid, annual savings will accrue to INL for several decades, Coburn noted. Among the innovative aspects of the project is a solar wall that will provide passive preheating for air at two MFC buildings. On the coldest winter days, the passive wall could preheat indoor ventilation air to as much as 60 degrees Fahrenheit, greatly reducing the energy required for building heat.

View a complete list of [Lab Director's Award recipients](#).

[Feature Archive](#)